

April 28, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL SECURES REFUNDS FROM BUSINESS DIRECTORY COMPANY

BISMARCK – North Dakota businesses that paid for a directory listing in the “American Business Index” may be eligible for a refund, announced Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

The Consumer Protection division received dozens of consumer inquiries and complaints regarding World Wide Source Publishing, Inc., (also known as Ameri-Source Publications and American Solution Information), a Montreal company doing business out of Plattsburgh, New York. The company claimed to publish a business directory called “American Business Index” and demanded payment from businesses listed in the directory, even though the businesses had not requested the listing.

“These misleading tactics are not acceptable. Our North Dakota businesses should not be subjected to these sales methods and certainly should not be expected to pay for directory listings they never requested,” Stenehjem said.

As a result of Stenehjem’s investigation, World Wide Source has agreed not to sell directory listings in North Dakota and will stop its attempts to collect payment for such listings. The Assurance of Voluntary Compliance also requires World Wide Source to issue \$3,380 in refunds to consumers who have already filed complaints with the Attorney General, and pay another \$2,500 in lieu of civil penalties. Finally, World Wide Source must issue a full refund to any North Dakota consumer who requests one and provides reasonable proof of payment (for example, a cancelled check). Requests for refunds must be postmarked by October 19, 2005, and sent, via certified mail, to:

Christopher R. Cooper, Esq.
Baker & Botts LLP
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004-2400

World Wide Source was founded by Pavlos Angelatos and has previously settled consumer fraud claims in Vermont and Missouri. The company is also under investigation by the United States Postal Service for alleged violations of federal law.

North Dakota consumers with questions, or who require assistance, should contact the Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404 or toll-free at 1-800-472-2600.

###